

TeamWorks

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June 30, 2005



CBFO welcomes new assistant manager

Daub named to head Operations ...



Shipment Numbers

Shipments
scheduled to arrive
07/03/05 - 07/09/05

12

Hanford - 2
INL - 7
LANL - 1
SRS - 2

(subject to change)

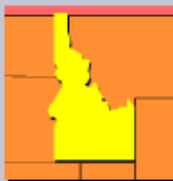
3,700
total shipments

received as of
06/29/05



Sometimes SMALLER is better

HalfPACT makes its debut shipment ...



AMWTF online to WIPP

Facility sends first compacted waste ...



Safe distance

Fireworks safety tips ...



Disposal Numbers

Waste disposed as of
06/29/05 :

99
100-gallon drums

4,471
standard waste boxes

1,792
ten-drum overpacks



Presentation support

Become a projector pro with these tips ...

62,196
waste drums

29,568 cubic meters



Team news

Safety Fair faces and SNL/CPG interns ...

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TRU TeamWorks is a biweekly e-newsletter for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant team

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The Big Story

Sun Runners



Winston solar cars coming to a Skeen-Whitlock Building near you on July 10. See story and photos in an upcoming edition of *TRU TeamWorks*.

Vernon Daub returns to DOE

Vernon Daub will return to the federal government after 10 years in private industry. DOE has named Daub as CBFO Assistant Manager for Operations. He will oversee disposal, characterization, transportation and the environmental compliance programs for CBFO. A 20-year veteran of the WIPP project, Daub will assume his new role on July 11. *TRU TeamWorks* caught up with him as he took time out for an official photograph.

Question: When did your relationship with WIPP begin?

I came to WIPP in 1987 as an experimental engineer. At the time, Sandia was conducting a number of experiments underground at WIPP. My job was DOE oversight for those experiments. Wendell Weart was my mentor in the early days and was very instrumental in my DOE career.

Later, I became the DOE transportation manager for WIPP. There was great controversy then about designating safe havens for our trucks – DOE-HQ didn't think the Department of Defense would cooperate. Amazingly, they did. TRUPACT testing was going on and our emergency response trainers were working with communities along the routes.


I then became testing and operations manager, which had its challenges. We struggled to figure out how WIPP, a miscellaneous unit, would fit with EPA oversight. I served as deputy project manager of the Carlsbad Area Office until 1995, then left the federal government and eventually joined Portage, which is an outstanding small company. They have given me a free hand to manage the CTAC contract. You just couldn't ask for a better company to work for.

Q. What are your plans for WIPP?

A. I'm a planner. I see WIPP's challenges as balancing a three-legged stool: politics, culture and the technical aspects. WIPP has tremendous technical expertise, the technical challenges will probably be the easier part. I will work with CBFO, the contractors and the national laboratories to work more closely as a team. You know, Inés Triay is a great agent of change. We have never had someone at her level at DOE-HQ who knows WIPP, knows the program and knows the community. I will complement the dynamics she has set in motion. Working together, we'll move the project forward in a smart way.



Vernon Daub joins CBFO



I plan to spend time with local leaders and the community. In the 20 years that I have worked at WIPP, the city fathers have consistently supported the project – as long as it's safe. They have attended every meeting that affected the livelihood of WIPP . . . if it weren't for their strong leadership and tenacity, WIPP never would have opened.

The time was right for me to take this position and finish my federal career. I'm looking forward to the challenge.

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Operations

SNL/CPG welcomes Hillesheim



Michael B. Hillesheim works in the Repository Performance Department at SNL/CPG. As a monitoring and visualization scientist, he focuses on WIPP geohydrology. He holds a master of science in geology from the University of Florida and a bachelor of science in geophysics from the University of Minnesota.

Hillesheim previously worked as a field geologist at Geohazards, Inc. in Florida and before that was a junior scientist for Limnological Research Center at the University of Minnesota. He awaits his fiancée, Lauren, who will soon be joining him in Carlsbad when she goes to work for Intera.

The weight-conscious HalfPACT

For more than six years, the TRUPACT-II has been the work horse shipping container for WIPP wastes. Last weekend the HalfPACT made its debut. Idaho National Laboratory became the first generator site to ship waste using the smaller HalfPACT shipping container.



A HalfPACT shipping container is fully engulfed in flames, completing the burn test required for Nuclear Regulatory Commission certification.


The HalfPACT may be a shorter version of TRUPACT-II, but it's just as durable. The HalfPACT was tested to the same stringent Type B standards as TRUPACT-II, receiving certification by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in November 2000.

"This will allow us to take advantage of weight limits and maximize shipments from Idaho," says Angela Johnson, WTS transportation manager. "The goal is for Idaho to send us 30 shipments per week by August."



The HalfPACT is 2.5 feet shorter than TRUPACT-II.

The HalfPACT was designed to maximize shipments by transporting heavier waste without exceeding U.S. Department of Transportation weight limits, which state that all WIPP shipments must weigh in at 80,000 pounds or less. The HalfPACT is 2.5 feet shorter than the TRUPACT-II, thus the overall package weighs less.



Specifically, the HalfPACT is designed to transport these waste configurations: seven 55-gallon drums, one standard waste box, four 85-gallon drums, or three 100-gallon drums. These configurations can also consist of waste packages that weigh up to 1,000 pounds each.

The HalfPACT can be hauled in tandem with the TRUPACT-II to stay below maximum gross vehicle weight limits, while maximizing waste per shipment.

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Progress

SNL/CPG welcomes Blevins



Pamela Blevins is the librarian and records center team lead at the WIPP Records Center/Library for SNL/CPG. She has a master's degree in library science, a bachelor's degree in business management and has completed some paralegal courses. She also has training as an indexer.

Blevins previously worked in a community college library in Las Cruces. She has worked in both academic and public libraries during the past ten years, previously with federal and state government agencies, and in business and nonprofit environments.

WIPP receives pucks from Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Facility

On June 2, WIPP received its first shipment of compacted TRU waste pucks from Idaho National Laboratory's Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Facility (AMWTF). By month's end, 117 hundred-gallon drums filled with pucks had been trucked to WIPP for disposal. The pucks, once full-sized 55-gallon drums, are compressed to about six inches in height by the facility's super-compactor.

The AMWTF was engineered to retrieve, treat, characterize and package plutonium-contaminated wastes now stored in boxes and drums at INL. Plans for the facility began in 1995 to speed removal of 65,000 cubic meters of TRU waste from Idaho by 2018 – as stipulated in a tri-party agreement between the State of Idaho, the Navy and the DOE.

Not all TRU waste packages that pass through the AMWTF will be compacted. The waste stream acceptable knowledge and degree of characterization will determine the waste's path. It is estimated that 28 percent (by volume) of the fully-characterized, stored waste is suitable for direct shipment to WIPP. But all boxed waste will be opened, sorted and size-reduced before being packaged into 55-gallon drums for compaction. A large number of stored waste drums will also be compacted.



The Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Facility (AMWTF).

The AMWTF is configured with box lines where waste boxes are opened inside radiological cells for sorting, size reduction and removal of prohibited items. The waste material is then loaded into 55-gallon drums for assay prior to compaction and shipment. The contents of a typical 4'x4'x7' waste box will fill up to fifteen 55-gallon drums.

A twin-auger shredder is located near one of the box lines to shred empty wooden and or metal boxes, which are disposed as low-level waste.

The super-compactor can apply a force of 2,000 metric tons, depending on the waste form being compacted. The facility processes up to four waste boxes per day, which fill approximately sixty 55-gallon drums. The super-compactor is designed to handle a maximum of 100 drums per day, or one every 15 minutes. The resulting pucks are overpacked, typically six to a 100-gallon drum. When ready to ship, the 100-gallon drum is loaded into a TRUPACT-II or HalfPACT shipping container (*see this edition's Transportation story*) for transport to WIPP.

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Safety

Scenes from the Safety Fair - Part 1



All fired up

Jay Lees and Steve Kouba were among the managers that fired up the grills and cooked lunch at the Skeen-Whitlock Building.



Don't try this at home!

The New Mexico State Police brought a rollover simulator to show the difference between wearing a seat belt and not. The outcome was clear ... buckle up for safety!

Fireworks safety

Flying spinners. Fountains. Fire crackers. Rockets. Roman candles. Crackling. Whistling. Pops. Bangs. Thunderous booms. Scorched gunpowder. Fireworks mesmerize and amaze.

But fireworks are not without hazards. The costs of a fireworks-related injury to you or a family member, especially children, far outweigh the cost of a single fireworks package. If you plan to set off fireworks this July 4th, consider these safety tips:

- Observe local fireworks laws
- Store fireworks in a dry, cool place. Read and follow instructions for storage and use
- Don't experiment with homemade fireworks
- Never have any portion of your body directly over a firework when lighting
- Do not allow young children to play with fireworks, even sparklers, which can ignite clothing
- Older children should only be permitted to use fireworks under close adult supervision
- Light fireworks in a clear area away from homes, dry leaves or grass and flammable materials
- Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially metal or glass
- Keep water nearby to extinguish accidental fires or fireworks that won't go out
- Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Douse with water and throw away
- Be sure other people are a minimum of 50 feet out of range before lighting fireworks
- Keep unused fireworks away from the firing area



Learn more about fireworks safety by visiting online poster exhibits [here](#).

This health and safety promotional activity is sponsored by the DOE Office of Environment, Safety, and Health. For more information contact: Dennis Kubicki, Fire Safety Expert (301) 903-4794 or Claudia Beach (301) 903-9826.



Star spangled Garv



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Working Smart



From your P2 Coordinator

Did you know that ... cigarette butts are:

- The most common form of litter
- Made up of cellulose acetate and take up to 12 years to decompose
- Dangerous – they cause fires, transmit disease, and are the result of an unhealthy addiction
- Deadly – they kill pets and wildlife through ingestion
- Offensive – contribute to and promote unsightly litter in your community
- Costly – they take taxpayer \$\$ to clean up - \$\$ that could be better used for other civic programs

Submitted by – Celeste M. Marsh,

The great projector mystery

Love a great mystery? Many of us enjoy mystery novels and brain teasers, but when we're called on to present a PowerPoint presentation, the last thing we want is to have to solve the mystery of the incredibly disappearing slide show, while our audience is staring at a blank wall. Here are some secrets to unraveling the mystery of today's projectors.

Secret #1 – Reconnaissance

Reconnaissance? Okay, what we really mean is show up early to check everything out. Now you can set up and have confidence that everything is working.



Secret #2 – The cords

Projectors only have two cords. One is the power cord and the other (usually a "VGA" cord) connects the projector to the laptop. The VGA cord will only plug into one place on the projector and one place on the laptop, so knowing where to plug it in is a simple matter of looking at where it will fit.

Secret #3 – Power

Make sure your laptop is plugged into an electrical outlet and not working off of its battery. A dead battery in the middle of a presentation can turn the lights out in a hurry.

Secret #4 – Communication

Sometimes when you set everything up and turn the power on, what is on your laptop monitor is not what is projected onto the screen. This is a communication issue between laptop and projector, but the fix is really easy.

Hold the 'Function' button down and press the function key that either says "CRT/LCD" or has a picture of a monitor on it and then release both. Wait a second and see what happens. This function cycles among several different options: putting the image on the screen only; on the monitor only; on neither, or on both. If the result is not what you want, repeat the process until you see the same image on both the monitor and the screen.

WRES EMS/Pollution Prevention (P2)
Coordinator

Secret #5 – Powering down

When you turn the projector off, the fan continues to run. Do not unplug the projector until the fan has stopped. The reason is that the bulb gets very hot and is susceptible to breaking if jarred. This way, the projector will work again the next time you use it.

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Our Team

**Scenes from the Safety Fair:
Safety at home, work and play -
it's the WIPP way!**



Cool Cats

Lloyd Piper and **Dick Raaz** beat the heat with hats and sunglasses. The day's high was 95 degrees.



Think green!

P2 Committee chair **Celeste Marsh** thinks green while getting ready for the safety fair.



Where'd they go?

Health Services staff, **Mary Williams**, **Anita Self** and **Joyce Pruitt**, declared war on stress.



Birthdays

Sheila Pearcy (L&M) – July 4
BJ Verret (CTAC) – July 5
Kathi Dunbar (WRES) – July 6
Gloria Johnson (WTS) – July 8
Barry Brown (WTS) – July 9
Pete Rodriguez (CTAC) – July 9
Vivian Allen (L&M) – July 10
Susan Scott (WTS) – July 10
Mike Fox (L&M) – July 12
Dave Kump (WTS) – July 12



Way to go!

Two WTS QA personnel certified by ASQ

Chris Luoma, WTS Quality Assurance, recently received certification as a software quality engineer from the American Society of Quality. Luoma is one of only 3,117 certified software quality engineers worldwide. Luoma has worked at WIPP since 2004.

ASQ also announced that **Martin Keathley**, WTS Quality Assurance, completed the comprehensive exam to receive certification as a quality assurance auditor. Currently, the ASQ has 25,178 certified quality engineers.

The American Society for Quality is the world's leading authority on quality. With more than 100,000 individual and organization members, the professional association advances learning, quality improvement and knowledge exchange to improve business results and to create better workplaces and communities worldwide.



Ta da!

Angela Johnson taking pride in the RCT display.



Smokin'

Joel Siegel and **Tom Lex** cooking burgers at the site.



Can you hear me now?

Bertha Cassingham, chair of the Safety Awareness committee, called out prize winners and kept everything going.

Check out the [Safety](#) page for more Safety Fair shots.

SNL/CPG welcomes summer interns



The SNL/CPG 2005 summer interns take a break from their duties. Pictured in the front row, left to right are **Nate Toll**, **Amy Calderon**, **Kerri White**, **Caitlin Allen** and **Sean Sullivan**. Back row **Dirk O'Daniel**, **Cameron Lynn**, **Dale Bowman**, **Victoria Martinez** and **Nicholas Stucky-Mack**.



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